

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

[0012] A portion of a tread suitable for a passenger vehicle tire is illustrated in FIG. 1. The tread is defined by a plurality of circumferential grooves 10 and lateral grooves 12. In the particular tread illustrated, the circumferential grooves 10 form a pair of continuous ~~ribs~~ ~~14~~ribs 13, one on each side of the tire centerplane. The lateral grooves 12 are located in the axially outer regions of the tread, and extend into the shoulder regions of a tire. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the tread of FIG. 1 is exemplary of a single tread, and the present invention is not limited to this tread configuration. It is within the scope of the present invention for the circumferential and lateral grooves 10, 12 to form any desired tread configuration.